

## ***Parish Staff***

### ***Pastor***

Rev. David Powers Sch.P.

### ***Parochial Vicars***

Rev. Nelson Henao Sch.P.

Rev. Richard Wyzykiewicz Sch.P.

### ***Parish Secretary***

Mrs. Rosemarie Ortiz

### ***Organist***

Mr. Franco Bonanome

### ***Leader of Song***

Mrs. Terry Bonanome

***February—March, 2016***

### ***Director of Development***

Mrs. Stephanie Turtle

### ***St. Helena's School (718) 892-3234***

Early Childhood (3-4 year olds)

Elementary School (Grades K-8)

Principal: Mr. Richard Meller

2050 Benedict Avenue

Bronx, New York 10462

### ***High School:***

Monsignor Scanlan H.S. (718) 430-0100

<http://www.scanlanhs.edu/>

Principal: Mr. Peter Doran

915 Hutchinson River Parkway

Bronx, New York 10465

### ***St. Helena Rectory:***

1315 Olmstead Avenue

Bronx, N.Y. 10462

Phone: (718) 892-3232

Fax: (718) 892-7713

[www.churchofsthelena.com](http://www.churchofsthelena.com)

Email: [sthelenarc@yahoo.com](mailto:sthelenarc@yahoo.com)

Alumni: [sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com](mailto:sthelenasalumni@yahoo.com)



While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my chosen Son; listen to him." - Lk 9:34-35

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

# ***saint Helena parish***



*Bronx, NY*

## ***Mass Schedule***

***Saturday: 5:30 PM***

**Holy Days:** 6:50, 8:30 AM, 12:15 PM and 7:30 PM

**Weekdays:** 6:50, 8:30 AM and 12:15 PM

Morning Prayer—Daily 8:30AM

***Sunday: AM***

***PM***

7:30

12:00 (Spanish)

9:00

1:30 PM

10:30 (Family)

5:00 PM

**Spanish Mass:** Sunday, 12:00 Noon

Holy Days — Evenings Before—7:30PM

Wednesday —7:30 PM (Spanish)

Monday 7:30PM (every first Monday of the month in Spanish)

### ***Confessions:***

Saturday — 4 to 5:30

### ***Sick Or Emergency Calls:***

At any time

call the Rectory at 892-3232

### ***Devotions:***

- Circulo De Oracion: Cada lunes, 7 a 8:30 PM,

- Miraculous Medal Novena
- Monday after 12:15 PM Mass

- Eucharist Adoration
- Thursday, 12:15 Mass Benediction
- Bible Study - Tuesday 7:30pm - English-Spanish

### ***Baptisms:***

Arrangements must be made at the Rectory for Baptismal Class.

Bring copy of child's Birth Certificate.

### ***Marriages:***

Arrangements for weddings should be made as soon as possible at the Rectory.

### ***Parish Registration:***

All Catholics who live within the parish boundaries should fill out a registration card at Church or Rectory.



**Handicapped Accessible**

## A WORD FROM THE PASTOR:

## WHY CATHOLICS GO TO A PRIEST FOR CONFESSION

Monday of Holy Week (Fig Monday) is Reconciliation Monday here in the Archdiocese of New York, a time when all the faithful are encouraged to celebrate the Sacrament of Penance, but the question always arises why must we confess to a priest and not just directly to God, so let us address that question.

Sin, in literal translation, means "missing the mark," not being where we should be. Where we should be, but are not, is in communion with God. So, for practical purposes, sin is separation from God. And, by definition, separation from God is death because life can only exist where God is present. Lent is a time when we try to reverse the effect of sin in our lives. The Sacrament of Penance was instituted by Jesus when in John 20:21-23- Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you." And when He had said this, He **breathed** on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained." Please note that this power bestowed upon the Apostles is different than the power previously given Peter of binding and loosing, which is the broad power in matters of faith and morals; this power is specific to sin. Knowing that the Apostles, as mere men, were incapable of handling such a responsibility on their own power, Jesus Christ gave them a special communication with the Holy Spirit (pneuma) for this special work. In all of the Bible, there are only two instances where God breathed on man, the other was when He gave man a living soul in Gn 2:7 - thus emphasizing the importance of the sacrament of Penance. And as this power was bestowed upon the Apostles, it was to be inherited by their successors, who continue His presence throughout time (Mt 28:19-20). Yes, Jesus is the one Mediator, but that does not deny Him from choosing others to assist Him in his work.

The Apostles certainly understood what Jesus Christ had commissioned them to do. Paul, in the name of Jesus, exercised the power of binding and loosing from sin and the effects of sin in the case of the incestuous Corinthians. In 1 Cor 3, Paul says: "I have already judged him that hath done so"; and in 2 Cor 2:10, Paul justifies his forgiveness of the repentant man by saying "If I have pardoned anything, I have done it in the person of Christ." Further, in 2 Cor 5:18, Paul writes: "All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation." And in 2 Cor 5:20, Paul confirms "So we are ambassadors for Christ."

One Mediator redeemed us, Jesus Christ. The Catholic Priest, in the sacrament of Penance, does not redeem us; he is but an agent of the one Mediator, assigned and empowered by the one Mediator. Confession is but one way of applying the mediation of Christ to men, and Baptism is another. Thus, Jesus commissioned his Apostles to continue His work, and He gave them authority to mediate between God and humankind. The Latin phrase "In Persona Christi" translates to "In the person of Christ". Therefore, the priests are acting through Christ. They are not another Christ, but they are doing what was instructed of the Apostles by Jesus Christ before His Ascension into Heaven.

The Apostles being the first priests of the Church, passed this on to the priests throughout time. While the forgiveness of sins comes fully from the sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary, confession to a priest is important because we **are**, in fact, asking forgiveness from Jesus directly, through the priest, who is In Persona Christi, and mediating between us and the Lord.

Many people sometimes wonder why we simply do not confess our sins in private "to God." The answer is very simple -- God already "knows" about our sins. Confession is a gift from God that

allows us to not only confess our sins, but to receive the assurance of God's forgiveness and the spiritual guidance that we need to help us overcome these sins. Humility is one strong reason for going to Confession with the Catholic priest. It is true that Confession is between God and the penitent, but having the priest there, listening and responding and advising, just as Jesus did, makes Confession so much more spiritually deep. Not only is one face to face and actually verbally confessing, but sometimes one is embarrassed and ashamed. It is in this moment of total humility and penitence, that one can open their heart and soul to the Lord Jesus Christ and realize that all one's sins are wiped clean. This overwhelming feeling of purity and closeness to God, leads to receive Sacramental Grace, the grace that is bestowed upon someone who is receiving a particular Sacrament. It is a sanctifying grace in which a person becomes closer to God by fully accepting, with a pure heart, the divinity of the Sacrament. The Sacraments are "Instituted by Christ" and that is why when we receive our Sacraments in a devout and honest way, there is a grace that is bestowed on us that is distinctly "sacramental." Also, the sacramental grace that is given during the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a protection against sin. It is there to erase sin and to help the penitent to resist the occasion of sin.

Finally, Sin separates us from each other. Nowhere is the lack of communion between us and God that happens because of sin shown better than in realizing just how estranged we are from each other these days. Sin destroys our relationship with the "other," and Christ Himself says that we can only know and love God when we know and love each other. So many of our sins are selfish, denying not just ourselves, but also others. Therefore, we must confess our sins and repent of them to restore our relationship with others. In the early Church that was very simply done when the penitent stood up in the midst of the church community and confessed their sin, thereby healing that relationship with others. When problems with that system arose, the priest began to stand in the place of the community. So, another reason that we must confess our sins to the priest is because he is a man, created and fallible just like everyone else, and he is standing in the place of everyone else.

In conclusion, it is only when three "healings" take place: first, between me and God, then between me and the Church, and finally between me and everyone else that true healing begins, and we can continue with the long struggle to overcome our sins and "be perfect as the heavenly Father is perfect", and going to Confession to a priest helps effect these three healings. *Fr. David*

## LEAP FROG LEAP YEARS

Although most modern calendar years have 365 days, a complete revolution around the Sun, which is called a solar year, takes 365 days, 5 hours, 49 minutes, and 16 seconds. Thus, an extra 24 hours accumulates almost every four years, and the Julian calendar reform of 46 BC required that an extra calendar day be added every four years to align the calendar with the sun's apparent position.

Without the added day, the seasons would move back in the calendar, leading to confusion about when to undertake activities dependent hours of daylight. However, doing this will actually add an extra day every 400 years, which is why in the Gregorian calendar reform of 1582, we do NOT add an extra day in a year divisible by 100 that is not also divisible by 400.

Unlike the leap year and the leap day, the concept of the leap second results from changes in the Earth's rotational speed.



## THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

A person who is born on February 29 is called a "leapling" or a "leap-year baby". There is a popular tradition known as Bachelor's Day in some countries allowing a woman to propose marriage to a man on February 29. If the man refuses, he then is obliged to give the woman money or buy her a dress. In upper-class societies in Europe, if the man refuses marriage, he then must purchase 12 pairs of gloves for the woman, suggesting that the gloves are to hide the woman's embarrassment of not having an engagement ring. In Ireland, the tradition is supposed to have originated from a deal that St. Bridget struck with St. Patrick.

In the Church, February 29 is the feast day of St. Oswald of Worcester, as well as St. Auguste Chapdelaine, who was one of the martyr saints of China.

### Leapling Saints - Feast Day February 29

**Oswald of Worcester** was Archbishop of York from 972 to his death on February 29, 992. He was of Danish ancestry, but brought up by his uncle, Oda, who sent him to France to the abbey of Fleury to become a monk. After a number of years at Fleury, Oswald returned to England at the request of his uncle, who died before Oswald returned. With his uncle's death, Oswald needed a patron and turned to another kinsman, Oskytel, who had recently become Archbishop of York. His activity for Oskytel attracted the notice of Dunstan, the Archbishop of Canterbury, who had Oswald consecrated as Bishop of Worcester in 961. In 972, Oswald was promoted to the see of York, although he continued to hold Worcester also.

As bishop and archbishop, Oswald was a supporter and one of the leading promoters of Dunstan's reforms of the church, including monastic reforms. Oswald founded a number of monasteries, including Ramsey Abbey, and he reformed another seven. Oswald also switched the cathedral chapter of Worcester from secular clergy to monks. While archbishop, he brought the scholar Abbo of Fleury to teach, and he spent two years in England, mostly at Ramsey. Oswald died on February 29, 992, while washing the feet of the poor. A hagiographical life was written shortly after his death, and he was quickly hailed as a saint.

### THE FIRST SCRUTINY

Today, **February 28**, the Elect will celebrate the First Scrutiny. These are ancient rites, profoundly rooted in our human experience. During the First Scrutiny, the Elect focus on two areas. First, they begin to examine (scrutinize) how they are, focusing on the areas of their lives where they are tempted or seriously sin - in what we do and what we fail to do. We all need healing and the strength that can come from the support of our brothers and sisters. Secondly, they seek to bring out, strengthen and understand all that is good within them.

### LENTEN AND HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** take place **EVERY FRIDAY** during Lent in the parish church, following the **12:15PM** daily Mass and then again at **6:30PM** in English and at **7:30PM** in Spanish. Come and join us for this wonderful Lenten Devotion.

**THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST**-This movie's dialogue is in Hebrew, Aramaic, and Latin (with Spanish subtitles) and will be shown at **3PM on Palm Sunday, March 20**, in the school gymnasium. There will be a catechesis about the movie on both **March 1** and **March 8** at **7:30PM in Spanish** in the school cafeteria.

**TALK FOR COUPLES**-A team from the Archdiocese of New York's Office for Family Life will present a Talk for Couples in Spanish on Thursday, **March 3** at **7PM** in the Church.

**PARISH SPANISH LENTEN MISSION**-will take place **March 15-17** from **7-9PM** in the Church. Fr. Nelson will be giving the Mission, which will include a talk, Adoration, and Confessions.

**SPANISH CHARISMATIC LENTEN RETREAT**-This retreat, entitled "Following the Path of Christ" will take place on Sat., **March 19** from **Noon - 5PM** in the school gymnasium.

**SEDER SUPPER**-Mark your calendars for the Annual Parish Seder Supper, which will take place on **Tuesday of Holy Week, March 22** at **7PM** in the school gymnasium. The supper will be celebrated in an ancient Jewish manner similar to the way the Last Supper was celebrated by Jesus on Holy Thursday. Invite your family and friends to attend.

**PONTIUS PILATE**-This History Channel presentation will be shown twice in the school gymnasium on Spy Wed., **March 23**, first following the **12:15PM Mass** and again at **7PM**. Both will be in English and discussion will follow.

**LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS**-St. Helena's will present the living Stations of the Cross at 6PM on Good Friday, **March 25**. The Stations will be directed by Br. Ricardo and Br. Orlando, who are now looking for volunteers. Let them know if you are interested in participating.

**LENTEN CROSS**-A very special thanks to Avalino who hand made our church's beautiful Lenten Cross and to Br. Ricardo and Br. Orlando who stained and draped it. St. Helena found the True Cross, and we have a relic of that Cross in our St. Helena Shrine, so it is especially symbolic that we have a Lenten Cross in our church as we proceed through the Lenten Season.

### Holy Week Schedule:

#### Palm Sunday: March 20

Masses: 5:30PM (Vigil), 7:30AM, 9:00AM, 10:30AM (Family), NOON (Spanish), 1:30PM, 5PM

Movie: THE PASSION OF CHRIST (Spanish subtitles), 3PM in Gymnasium

Vespers and Benediction- 4PM - 5:30PM in Church

#### Fig Monday: March 21

Masses: 6:50AM, 8:30AM, 12:15PM

Reconciliation Monday: Confessions, 3PM - 9PM in English and 5PM - 9PM in Spanish

#### Tuesday of Holy Week: March 22

Masses: 6:50AM, 8:30AM, 12:15PM

Chrism Mass at 4PM St. Patrick's Cathedral

FIRST CENTURY SEDER SUPPER at 7PM in gymnasium

#### Spy Wednesday: March 23

Masses: 6:50AM, 8:30AM, 12:15PM

Video and Discussion: PONTIUS PILATE following the 12:15PM Mass and again at 7PM, both in English

#### Maundy Thursday: March 24

6:50AM Morning Mass

10:30AM Children's Mass

7:30PM Bi-Lingual Solemn Mass

ADORATION until 11PM

#### Good Friday: March 25

8:30AM Tenebrae

10:30AM Children's Liturgy

3:00PM Solemn Liturgy

6 PM Living Stations of the Cross

7 PM Seven Last Words of Christ (Spanish in Gym and English in Church)

## FEBRUARY 28, 2016

8 PM Solemn Liturgy (Spanish Passion in Gym, English Passion in Church)

8:30 PM Both groups come together for Veneration of the Cross and Communion in Church

### Holy Saturday: March 26

8:30AM Tenebrae

10:00AM RCIA Preparation Liturgy

4PM - 5:30PM Confessions

7:30PM Solemn Easter Vigil (Bilingual with Choirs)

### Easter Sunday: March 27

Masses: 7:30AM, 9AM, 10:30AM (Family), NOON (Spanish),

1:30PM, 5PM

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### OFFERING ENVELOPES

Sunday, February 21, 2016

\$4,592.24

Our weekly budget, (Nuestro presupuesto semanal es) \$4,231.00

Thank you to everyone for your generosity and for your support and for all that you do for St. Helena's Parish. Your support means a lot, and together, we are making a difference.

Gracias a todos por su generosidad y por todo lo que hacen por esta Iglesia de St. Helena.

### 50/50 DRAWING: The Feb. 21 winners are: No. 4 & No. 301 @ \$21

- **FAMILY SESSION**-The next **English Family Session** will be held **March 20** after the **10:30AM Mass**.
- **FIRST COMMUNION SESSION**-The next English First Communion Session will take place on **March 6** after the **10:30AM Mass**.
- **CONFIRMATION CLASS**-The next session for **St. Helena School 7th Graders** will take place on **Tuesday, March 1** after school. For more information, call Fr. Richard at **718-892-3232**.
- **SPANISH FAMILY SESSION AND SPANISH FIRST COMMUNION SESSION** will take place after the **Noon Mass** on **Sunday, March 13** in the Cafeteria.
- **COMMITMENT WEEKEND**: This weekend, the Archdiocese of New York asks you to make a financial commitment to the **Cardinal's Appeal**. This Appeal is the financial lifeblood of the archdiocese and is critical to its many works. The training of our parish catechists and diocesan presentations, such as our upcoming Talk for Couples, is all funded from this appeal. Today, you will receive a card on which you can make your pledge. You may donate this weekend, but you have a special envelope for **NEXT WEEK** in which you may put your donation. **THIS WEEKEND**, we are simply asking for you to pray and make your financial commitment.
- **FREE LECTURE ON LAUDATO SI** which is Pope Francis' recent encyclical on the environment, on **Sunday, February 28** from **2:30 - 4PM** at the Maryknoll Mission Center, 55 Ryder Road, Ossining, given by Irish Columban Father Sean McDonagh. For information, call **914-941-7590**. *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home*, the much anticipated encyclical of Pope Francis on the environment, was released to the world on Thursday, June 18, 2015. People all over the world eagerly awaited the Pope's call to save God's creation and protect the poor (who are those most harmed by ecological destruction). News coverage was extensive and it generated much interest among people of many faiths around

the world. You can find an introduction to the encyclical in a 6 1/2 minute video that features Catholic voices, online at: <http://www.valeclimateconnections.org/2015/06/video-outlines-background-for-pope-francis-papal-encyclical> , or go to Yale Climate Connections and search "encyclical background".

- **ADULT CHOIR PRACTICE has been changed.** It is now held every **Friday** at **7PM** in the choir loft. Please attend. We are preparing for Easter.
- **ENGLISH BIBLE STUDY COURSE**-Our second semester English Bible Study begins this Tuesday and is called THE BIBLE TIMELINE. It is a 24-week course that surveys the highlights of the Bible story. The course meets every Tuesday from 7:30 pm to 9 pm. Our next class is **Tuesday, March 1**, and we will study Numbers.
- **FLEA MARKET**-The next Flea Market will be held on **Sunday, March 20** from **10AM-3PM** in the Family Center.
- **MASS INTENTIONS**-for both 2016 and 2017 are still available. Contact the Rectory for available dates and times.
- **WAY OF THE CROSS OVER THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE**-On **Good Friday, March 25th, 2016**, Communion and Liberation will sponsor the Way of the Cross over the Brooklyn Bridge. Participants will congregate for the first station at St. James Cathedral, Brooklyn, at **10:00 am**.
- **YOUTH FAIR**-The Bronx Community Board 9 Youth Fair will take place at St. Helena School in the gymnasium and cafeteria on **Saturday, March 5 from 10AM - 4 PM**. All Bronx YOUTH ages 13-21 are invited to attend. Among the activities, there will be an opportunity to apply for jobs, so bring your resume. There will also be a resume writing workshop at the fair. There will be a diverse set of educational opportunities there for students. Different youth and educational services will be provided, from not-for-profits, colleges, independent programs, and community-based organizations. There will be institutions that have access to different scholarship opportunities and resources there for students. Also, there will be some small extracurricular activities, like the Youth Police Academy and Thurgood Marshall Mock Trial bringing information, also some social workers will be there that handle immigration issues and other important topics for families.
- **RISEN**: Follows the epic Biblical story of the Resurrection, as told through the eyes of a non-believer. Clavius, a powerful Roman Military Tribune, and his aide Lucius, are tasked with solving the mystery of what happened to Jesus in the weeks following the crucifixion, in order to disprove the rumors of a risen Messiah and prevent an uprising in Jerusalem. The project began in 2007, was shelved, and then revised. The movie is playing now at the AMC Bay Plaza Cinema 13.
- **CATHOLIC COUPLE CHECKUP GIVEAWAY**-The Archdiocese of New York's Family Life Respect Life Office announces that as part of World Marriage Week they are offering 100 free codes for Catholic Couple Checkup, an online tool designed to identify the unique relationship strengths and growth areas of dating, engaged, or married couples. It is an enjoyable way to start meaningful conversations. Visit [www.nyfamilylife.org](http://www.nyfamilylife.org) during the month of February to get your free code.
- **ADORATION CHAPEL**-Holy Cross Parish, 620 Thieriot Avenue, has a new Adoration Chapel, which is open

**Monday-Friday from 10AM - 9PM..**

- **A COURSE IN QUANTUM FORGIVENESS**-Rogier F. van Vlisningen is teaching a 13-week class in Quantum Forgiveness every Sunday at St. Helena's from **3 to 4:30 PM** in the Family Life Center For more information, call **917-549-0959**. A suggested donation is \$7/session.
- **FREE BREAST CANCER SCREENING ON MARCH 13 AT ST. HELENA**-Please register this weekend. There are **signup sheets in the narthex**. The American-Italian Cancer Foundation is sponsoring a Free Mobile Breast Cancer Screening Program, using state of the art digital GE mammography equipment. The screening will take place here at the St. Helena parking lot on **Sunday, March 13** from 9AM-4:30PM. The program is for women age 40 and over who reside in New York City and have not had a mammogram in the last 12 months. All health insurances are accepted. Please bring your health insurance card with you to the screening. Women will NOT be charged a co-pay or deductible and will receive no bill. Costs for uninsured women are covered in part by the New York State Cancer Service Program.

### **ST. HELENA SCHOOL NEWS**

- **Box Tops for Education.** Please continue to save your Box Tops for Education. Box tops can be found on the following products: Betty Crocker, Nestle Juicy Juice, Green Giant, Pillsbury, Land-o-Lakes, Yoplait, Nature Valley, Kleenex, Scott, Hefty, General Mills Cereal, Ziploc, Progresso. Please see the website for more qualifying products. Just drop them in the collection basket.  
**www.boxtops4education.**



### **HORSEMEN TRIUMPH OVER OLA BUT GET CLAWED BY THE LIONS**

Both the Varsity and Junior Varsity Horsemen easily defeated Our Lady of the Assumption Monday night at home. Chris Colton had a game-high 18 points and was the only player on either team to score in all four quarters and to score in double digits, as the JV won 36-31. Likewise, Jordan Providence had an exceptional night for the Varsity squad, also being the only player on either team to score in double digits with 12, on route to a 34-18 Varsity Horsemen rout of OLA.

The Horsemen were one of six teams invited to participate in the Second Annual CSBA Ron Patnosh Memorial Shootout, held at the St. Raymond's High School gymnasium. There, the Horsemen went up against the Lions of St. Francis Xavier in what would be the highest scoring and fastest paced game of the tournament. It looked like a high school game, and it was close, but missing too many easy layups combined with Lion's shooter Carmine Castello's game-high 31 points finally propelled the Lions past the Horsemen for the final 62-52 win.

#### ***Please Pray for the Sick of our Parish***

Valeria Reid, Joanne Frances Bernadette Sanabria, Jonah Hortaleza, Lucy Cannavacciuolo, Joan Ricci, Sylvia Carballo, Ruben Mercado, Mike Adorno

#### ***Please Pray for the Deceased and their Grieving Families:***

Mercedes Martinez, Jesus Estrella, Virginia Cornier, Luz Delia Tosca, Rev. Terzo Vinci, S.A.C., Lamaren Domingo, Arthur Graff, Evelyn Rodriguez, Rev. Joseph Kershner, Sch.P., Rev. Jaume Pallarolas, Sch.P, Ernest DeCurtis, Rev. Edmund Connors

Three Horsemen scored in double digits: Francisco Mattei had points in every quarter with a team-high 17 points, Matt Manning hit for 15, and Jordan Providence scored 10 points. Sammy Lugo scored his five points in the final quarter; Soraya Morales hit a three in the third quarter, and Matt Rodriguez sank a two in the second quarter. The Lions were 5 for 10 from the free throw line, while the Horsemen were 8 for 10.

Against OLA, Providence's shooting moved him up to the position of number three scorer on the team; Mattei sank the only Varsity Horsemen free throws as part of his nine points. Sammy Lugo sank two threes in the third quarter for six points, and Matt Rodriguez sank a two in the third quarter. The Horsemen were 4 for ten from the line, while OLA was 1 for 8. The Horsemen now have a 7-1 season record.

Ulises Paniagua sank his first two of the season for the JV in the third quarter. Jose Velez hit for seven points, Khalil Black nailed a three in the first quarter, and Antonio Martinez, William Manning, and Eric Cordero all hit twos. The Horsemen were 2 for 4 from the line, and OLA was 2 for 10 from the line. Nicky Callari with 8 points and Ryan Picard with nine points were the highest scoring JV shooters for OLA.

### **ANUNCIOS EN ESPANOL**

- **VIA CRUCIS EN EL PUENTE DE BROOKLYN** El Viernes Santo, 25 de marzo de 2016, Comuni6n y Liberaci6n auspicia el Via Crucis sobre el Puente de Brooklyn. Los participantes se congregaran para la primera estaci6n en la Catedral de St. James en Brooklyn a las 10:00 a.m.
- **PRIMER ESCRUTINIO**-Los hermanos que se preparan para recibir los sacramentos durante este a6o son presentados de nuevo a la comunidad que los acompa6a en el proceso. Hoy se realiza el primer escrutinio.

### **ACTIVIDADES DE LA CUARESMA Y LA SEMANA SANTA**

- **ESTACIONES DE LA CRUZ:** Todos los viernes de Cuaresma en la parroquia despu6s de la misa de **12.15 PM** y a las **6.30 PM** en Ingl6s y **7.30 PM** en Espa6ol. 6nete con la familia a esta preciosa devoci6n cuaresmal.
- **LA PASION DE CRISTO:** Se presentar6 **20 de marzo**, Domingo de Palmas a las **3 PM** en el gimnasio de la escuela. Habr6 catequesis sobre la pel6cula el **1 de marzo** y el **8 de marzo** a las **7.30 PM**.
- **CHARLA PARA PAREJAS y FAMILIA: "EL RETO DE JESUS PARA ESTA CUARESMA"**. Como parte de un trabajo en equipo con la Oficina de la Vida Familia de la Arquidi6cesis de NY, habr6 una charla en espa6ol el **3 de marzo a las 7 PM**. Todas las parejas y la familia en general est6n invitadas a participar para crecer juntos en las diferentes 6reas de la vida familiar. Vendr6 una pareja de Colombia (Sr. y Sra. Cuenca) con mucha experiencia para compartir sobre los retos y las posibilidades de la vida en familia. Trae tus hijos que habr6 qui6n se encargue de ellos.
- **MISION DE CUARESMA EN SANTA HELENA**-El P. Nelson Henao dirigir6 este retiro de cuaresma como preparaci6n a la Pascua de Resurrecci6n los d6as **martes 15, mi6rcoles 16 y jueves 17 de marzo**, de **7 pm a 9 pm** en nuestra **iglesia**. El retiro incluye una charla de 40 minutos, adoraci6n eucar6stica y confesiones.
- **RETIRO CARISM6TICO DE CUARESMA:** El **19 de marzo** de las **12 M a las 5 PM** en el **gimnasio** de la escuela. El t6tulo es "**Siguiendo los Pasos de Cristo**".
- **SEDER SUPPER:** El **martes 22 de marzo a las 7 PM**

tendremos en el gimnasio, siguiendo el rito judío, la cena que Jesús celebró el Jueves Santo. Invita tus amigos y familiares.

- **PONCIO PILATO:** Esta presentación de History Channel se presentará dos veces en el gimnasio de la escuela. El **23 de marzo** después de la misa de **12.15 PM** y a las **7 PM**. Después de cada presentación habrá, en inglés, una sesión de preguntas y respuestas sobre ella.
- **VIACRUCIS EN VIVO:** Habrá procesión el Viernes Santo a las 6 pm. Únete a nosotros! Ponte en contacto con los hermanos Ricardo y Orlando si deseas participar. Necesitamos jóvenes que se animen!!!
- **CRUZ DE CUARESMA:** Un agradecimiento especial a nuestro hermano Avelino quien construyó para la parroquia la cruz que ustedes ven en la Iglesia. Gracias también a los hermanos Ricardo y Orlando quienes la pintaron y decoraron. Recordemos que Santa Helena encontró la verdadera cruz de Cristo y tenemos una reliquia en la capilla de Santa Helena en nuestra Iglesia.

#### **HORARIO DE SEMANA SANTA**

- **DOMINGO DE PALMAS, 20 DE MARZO**

**Misas:** 5.30 pm (Vigilia); 7.30 am; 9 am; 10.30 am; 12 m (Español); 1.30 pm; 5 pm.

**Película:** LA PASION DE CRISTO. 3 pm en el gimnasio. Se ofrecerá almuerzo en el gimnasio.

**Costo:** 10 dólares que incluye la **catequesis** sobre la película los **martes 1 y 8 de marzo de 7.30 a 8.30 pm**, el **almuerzo** el domingo 20 de marzo después de la misa y la **película**.

- **LUNES SANTO , 21 DE MARZO**

**Misas:** 6.50 am; 8.30 am; 12.15 pm

Lunes de reconciliación: **Confesiones** de 3 pm a 9 pm en inglés y de **5 pm a 9 pm en español**.

- **MARTES SANTO, 22 DE MARZO**

**Misas:** 6.50 am; 8.30 am; 12.15 pm

Misa crismal en la Catedral de San Patricio: 4 pm

Cena de Jesús: 7 pm en el gimnasio

- **MIERCOLES SANTO, 23 DE MARZO**

**Misas:** 6.50 am; 8.30 am; 12.15 pm

**PONCIO PILATO:** Película y discusión después de la misa de 12 m y a las 7 pm. Inglés.

- **JUEVES SANTO, 24 DE MARZO**

**Misas:** 6.50 am; 10.30 am (niños); 7.30 pm Misa Solemne, bilingüe. Adoración hasta las 11 pm.

- **VIERNES SANTO, 25 DE MARZO**

**8.30 am** Tenebrae

**10.30 am** Liturgia para los niños

**3 pm** Solemne liturgia en inglés

**6 pm** Viacrucis en vivo

**7 pm** Sermón de las Siete Palabras (Español en el gimnasio; Inglés en la Iglesia)

**8 pm** Liturgia Solemne de la Palabra (Español en el gimnasio; Inglés en la Iglesia)

**8.30 pm** Los dos grupos se unen para la Adoración de la Cruz y la Comunión en la Iglesia.

- **SABADO SANTO, 26 DE MARZO**

**8.30 am** Tenebrae

10 am RCIA preparación de la liturgia

4 pm a 5 pm Confesiones

7.30 pm Vigilia Solemne de Pascua (Bilingüe con los coros)

- **DOMINGO DE PASCUA, 27 DE MARZO**

**Misas:** 7.30 am; 9 am; 10.30 am (Familia); 12 m (Español); 1.30 pm; 5 pm.

- **SESION DE PRIMERA COMUNION** en inglés. **6 de**

**marzo** después de la misa de 10.30 am.

- **SESION DE FAMILIA:** En inglés el 20 de marzo después de la misa de 10.30 am.
- **CLASE DE CONFIRMACION:** La próxima sesión para los alumnos de 7 grado de nuestra escuela será el **1 de marzo** después de la escuela. Para más información llamar al P. Richard al 718-892-3232.
- **SESION DE FAMILIA Y DE PRIMERA COMUNION** tendrá lugar el domingo 13 de marzo en la cafetería.
- **MISAS DE ANIVERSARIO:** La parroquia celebrará los aniversarios de 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60 o más años de matrimonio el **domingo 22 de mayo**. En inglés después de la misa de 10.30 am y en español después de la misa de 12 m.
- **LLAMADA DEL CARDINAL PARA 2016:** Sólo con tu colaboración podemos alcanzar la meta para nuestra iglesia de \$36.000, para ayudar en la misión anual del Cardenal en favor de las diferentes misiones caritativas de la Arquidiócesis. **Hoy** recibirás una tarjeta en la que haces el compromiso. La próxima semana habrá un sobre para hacer su donación. Esta semana te pedimos que ores para discernir cuánto puedes dar para las obras de la Iglesia.
- **FERIA PARA JOVENES:** El **5 de marzo** de 10 AM a 4 PM están invitados todos los jóvenes de 13-21 años al gimnasio y la cafetería de la escuela. Habrá diferentes actividades y entre ellas la oportunidad de aplicar para trabajo, trae tu hoja de vida. Habrá temas de inmigración, becas de diferentes instituciones e información sobre todo tipo de servicios para la comunidad.
- **ESCUELA DE SANTA HELENA:** Está realizando tours en las instalaciones para los padres que quieren brindar a sus hijos la oportunidad de tener una educación católica. Esta es la mejor inversión que pueden hacer en sus hijos. **Todos los martes de febrero de 3 a 5 pm.**

#### **BUEN DIA, HERMANOS:**

Entramos a la tercera semana de cuaresma, el camino que nos prepara para la Pascua, el camino que nos invita a reflexionar sobre nuestra vida, sobre las cosas buenas de ella y sobre todo el camino que tenemos aún por recorrer. Creo que ése camino por recorrerse es una bendición cuando se conoce que hay un destino final. A nivel personal esto fue definitivo en mi vida. El día que comencé a comprender que éste camino no es en vano, que hay una **Tierra Prometida** por conquistar, que es una promesa de Dios y que Dios nunca ha fallado en sus promesas, entonces los dolores, el sufrimiento, las alegrías, la abundancia y la escasez comenzaron a cobrar una nueva perspectiva. Al final de cuentas nada en esta vida está asegurado y no es que la vida sea mala o injusta. La vida no es justa o injusta, la vida es la vida y somos nosotros los que tenemos que aprenderla a vivir de la manera que nos ha tocado vivirla. Hay personas que teniendo todo lo que humanamente se considera es la plenitud, han vivido vidas miserables. Hay quienes de la nada se han levantado para ser modelos para la sociedad y para el mundo. Y como estamos en cuaresma, tiempo de oración y reflexión, quiero hablarles un poco sobre lo que se conoce como la **“Ley Natural”**. Qué es la ley natural? Una definición simple nos indica que es **“la participación de las creaturas racionales en la ley eterna”**. Y qué es la **“Ley Eterna?”** Es la **Sabiduría** de Dios.

Sabemos y creemos que Dios dió existencia a toda la creación, no cualquier tipo de existencia sino una existencia con una **“dirección** ordenada, con un fin y un propósito que se reflejan en la **armonía** del universo”. Y esta armonía se hace visible en la inteligencia y el libre albedrío (**libertad**) que se ha concedido a nosotros, los seres racionales. Esta inteligencia y libertad son las que permiten que

nuestra vida sea también nuestra responsabilidad y esto precisamente lo que más nos diferencia de los animales y de las demás cosas que hay en la creación.

Pero el hecho de tener inteligencia y libertad no hace de nosotros seres sin ninguna ley, Dios no crea de esa manera. La inteligencia y la libertad se nos ha dado precisamente para que podamos alcanzar el fin para el cual hemos sido creados. O sea, en la constitución, en la esencia de nuestro ser, está inscrita una ley, es la ley que Dios ha colocado en nuestro ser y que indica cuál es el camino que el ser humano debe seguir. Por eso, cuando nuestras acciones están conformes con esta ley somos guiados hacia nuestro destino. Esas son las acciones correctas que moralmente son buenas. Las acciones que están en contra de ésta ley son consideradas acciones equivocadas y son inmorales.

Recordemos que el ser humano no es un robot de Dios en cuanto a que es poseedor de libertad y de inteligencia, pero la ley inscrita en su corazón le indica que para alcanzar su "plenitud de vida" hay una ley que debe seguir. Esa ley no aplica en cada caso específico, pero da unas pautas de comportamiento que le permite al ser humano cometer errores y corregirlos. Lo importante es estar consciente de la existencia de esa ley. Veamos algunos ejemplos sencillos: La **comida** es un bien para el ser humano, pero el excedernos constantemente causa problemas a nivel de salud e inclusive a nivel espiritual. Otro ejemplo, el ser humano tiende a la **auto-conservación**, pero negarse a poner la vida en riesgo cuando se trata de proteger el bien común de la sociedad es equivocado. Otro ejemplo, está bien tomarse un vaso de vino o una cerveza, pero intoxicarse constantemente afectando no sólo la salud propia sino la vida de otras personas, es equivocado.

Esta es la norma general y ciertamente hay otras situaciones que se complican pero no es el objeto de esta reflexión llegar hasta allá. Lo importante es reconocer que existe una ley en nosotros, que es universal e inmutable, o sea, no cambia, y que es necesario aprender a conocer y practicar para vivir en armonía tanto interior como exterior. San Pablo dice en el capítulo segundo de su carta a los Romanos que *hay una ley inscrita en el corazón del ser humano*. Y, **quién nos habla de esa ley?** nos podemos preguntar. San Pablo nos dice que la **conciencia** es el testimonio que a veces nos acusa y a veces nos disculpa. Si, Dios nos habla por medio de la conciencia, desde donde el ser humano puede acceder a la verdad.

Además, en uno de sus textos más hermosos, el Concilio del Vaticano II en la constitución pastoral *Gaudium et spes* (7 de diciembre 1965), no dice: "*El hombre descubre una ley que él no se da a sí mismo, sino a la que debe obedecer y cuya voz resuena, cuando es necesario, en los oídos de su corazón, llamándolo siempre a amar y a hacer el bien y a evitar el mal: haz esto, evita aquello. [...] La conciencia es el centro más secreto del hombre, el santuario en el que está solo con Dios y en el que su voz se hace oír. [...] Mediante la fidelidad a la conciencia, los cristianos se sienten unidos a los demás hombres para buscar la verdad y resolver, según la verdad [...]*" (# 16). Es un precioso texto que vale la pena ser meditado para llevarlo siempre con nosotros.

Dios nos ha dado un "revelación supranatural" con unos preceptos que el ser humano debe cumplir, aceptar y obedecer. Esto es algo a lo que la cultura moderna se opone rotundamente pues considera que no necesita de ninguna ley que le indique el camino. Podemos ver a nuestro alrededor para darnos cuenta de los efectos de este rechazo a la ley inscrita en nuestro corazón.

Podemos terminar diciendo que la **ley natural** es el fundamento de todas las leyes humanas porque los seres humanos estamos llamados a vivir en sociedad y la sociedad requiere de una autoridad que guíe y controle todo hacia el bien común, en armonía y en paz. Pero esa autoridad debe tener un "poder moral" que la sostenga. Es lo que en muchos casos hace falta.

Que el tiempo que vivimos de cuaresma nos sirva para reconocer esa ley inscrita en nuestros corazones y que la oración, la reflexión y las buenas obras nos ayuden a caminar en forma armoniosa con esa ley que algunos llaman "**la voluntad de Dios**". Bendiciones, *P. Nelson*

## Mass Intentions

### SUNDAY, February 28, 2016-Third Sunday of Lent

- 7:30 Our Parishioners
- 9:00 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 10:30 Sheila McCannon  
Rosie Domiche
- 12:00 Margarita and Auria Herrera
- 1:30 Policemen Killed in Action
- 5:00 Souls in Purgatory

### MONDAY, February 29, 2016-Feast of St. Oswald of Worcester and St. Auguste Chapdelaine

- 6:50 Joanne Savino's Intentions
- 8:30 Fr. David Powers. Sch.P. Intentions
- 12:15 Intentions of The Maloney and Sheehan Families

### TUESDAY, March 1, 2016-Feast of St. David

- 6:50 Deceased Members of St. Helena's Parish
- 8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 12:15 Ernest DeCurtis

### WEDNESDAY, March 2, 2016-Feast of St. Angela of the Cross

- 6:50 Fr. Jose Garavito
- 8:30 Fr. Richard Wzykiewicz, Sch.P. Intentions
- 12:15 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 7:30 Justicia Divina por el ataque de una mujer por cinco hombres  
Alvaro Diaz

### THURSDAY, March 3, 2016-Feast of St. Katherine Drexel

- 6:50 Msgr. Philip Mulcahy
- 8:30 Hughes Family and Mary Alice Hartnett
- 12:15 Souls in Purgatory

### FRIDAY, March 4, 2016-Feast of St. Casimir

- 6:50 Joseph and Matilda Carty
- 8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 12:15 Intentions of David, Kay, Jerry and Michael for Healing

### SATURDAY, March 5, 2016-Feast of St. Colette

- 6:50 Msgr. John J. Voight
- 8:30 In Thanksgiving for Favors
- 12:15 St. Helena's Benefactors  
José Hilario Capellan, Angel M. Jimenes and Ana Rosa Castillo
- 5:30 Joanne Savino's Intentions

### SUNDAY, March 6, 2016-Fourth Sunday of Lent

- 7:30 John Mullin
- 9:00 Intentions of Daniel for Good Health
- 10:30 Frances Cruz-From Her Loving Family
- 12:00 Amado Veloz, Manuela Portorreal and Felicia Portorreal
- 1:30 José Acevedo Intentions
- 5:00 Our Parishioners

### Readings for the Week of February 28, 2016

Sunday: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42  
Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4/Lk 4:24-30  
Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-9/Mt 18:21-35  
Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19  
Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Lk 11:14-23  
Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6-11, 14, 17/Mk 12:28-34  
Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-21/Lk 18:9-14  
Next Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-6/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38  
1st Scrutiny: Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-9/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or